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Trade and Development Board
Sixty-first session
Geneva, 15–26 September 2014
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

The provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Trade and Development Board is reproduced in chapter I below. The secretariat's annotations, contained in chapter II, are intended to provide essential background information covering the provisional agenda items, together with a brief description of the relevant documentation.

A checklist of documents relating to all agenda items will be issued at the beginning of the session.

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Please recycle

I. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session
3. High-level segment: Tackling inequality through trade and development: A post-2015 challenge
4. Interdependence: Trade and development policy challenges for a sustained recovery of the global economy
5. Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Third progress report
6. Economic development in Africa: Catalysing investment for transformative growth in Africa
7. Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective
8. Development strategies in a globalized world: Policymaking in an evolving framework of global governance
9. Investment for development: Investing in the sustainable development goals
10. UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
11. Technical cooperation activities
    (a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD
    (b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people
12. Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the thirteenth session of the Conference
    (a) Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012
    (b) Report of the UNCTAD Public Symposium
13. Other matters in the field of trade and development
    (a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-sixth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
    (b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre
14. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget
15. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters
    (a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2013–2014 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2015

(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2015

(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

16. Adoption of the report on credentials

17. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Board

18. Other business

19. Adoption of the report

II. Annotations to the provisional agenda

1. The provisional agenda of the sixty-first session of the Trade and Development Board was approved at the closing plenary meeting of the fifty-ninth executive session of the Trade and Development Board on 25 June 2014.

Item 1
Election of officers

2. The rules of procedure of the Trade and Development Board are contained in documents TD/B/16/Rev.4 and Corr.1.

3. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board consists of 12 members: the President, 10 Vice-Presidents and the Rapporteur, i.e. four members from list A (Africa/Asia), four from list B, two from list C and two from list D, as referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended.

4. In accordance with the cycle of rotation that has been in operation since the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD IX), the President of the Board for the sixty-first session will be a representative of one of the States in list B and the Rapporteur will be a representative of one of the States in list A (Africa). The 10 Vice-Presidents will therefore be as follows: three from list A (Africa/Asia); three from list B; two from list C; and two from list D.

Item 2
Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session

Agenda

5. The provisional agenda for the session is reproduced in chapter I above.

Organization of work

6. In order to accommodate the suggestions made by delegations, meetings of the session of the Board have been organized in such a way as to ensure that no two meetings will take place simultaneously. They have been designed with a view to ensuring effective participation by delegations, particularly small delegations, and also to making the most efficient use of the conference resources of the United Nations.

Establishment of sessional committees

7. In accordance with rule 62 of its rules of procedure, the Board may wish to set up two sessional committees. It is proposed to allocate agenda item 5 to Sessional Committee I and agenda item 6 to Sessional Committee II.

Item 3
High-level segment: Tackling inequality through trade and development: A post-2015 challenge

8. Under this agenda item, delegates and panellists will examine the challenges that global inequality poses for achieving inclusive and sustainable growth. Income and wealth inequality have increased significantly in the last few decades. The share of labour income in world gross output declined significantly in the last three decades, a trend that has affected developed, developing and transition economies alike. The concomitant rise in profit shares has failed to stimulate productive investment and has instead been used for dividend payments, acquisitions and share buybacks. Furthermore, high inequality has been a source of deep and destructive economic crises by encouraging perverse financial incentives and rising levels of private indebtedness. Indeed, the global financial crisis greatly increased awareness of the close association between growing inequality, the rise of unregulated financial markets and the threat to economic and social security from shocks and crises.

9. Identifying the right strategies to improve income distribution at the global level must therefore represent a priority in the agenda of the international community. In this respect, the crucial variables to look at for addressing inequalities and achieving social cohesion are jobs and labour income, as well as public redistribution policies. The attention that UNCTAD has devoted to these issues, and in particular to the tendency for wages to lag behind productivity growth, highlights its potential contribution to elaborating appropriate strategies to reduce inequality.

Documentation

TD/B/61/7	Tackling inequality through trade and development in the post-2015 development agenda

Item 4
Interdependence: Trade and development policy challenges for a sustained recovery of the global economy

10. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will provide an opportunity to review how the performance of the world economy has evolved in 2013 and 2014. This review will analyse drivers and weaknesses of the economic recovery after the global crisis and highlight the interdependence between the economic performance of developed and developing countries as well as transition economies.

11. Special attention will be given to the current situation of international finance and the shortcomings of the rules governing international capital movements. The debate will discuss how different groups of countries can manage capital inflows in order to strengthen real investment and reduce potential adverse macroeconomic effects.

12. As background documentation for the Board's deliberations, chapters I, II and V of the *Trade and Development Report, 2014* review the trends in the world economy, examine the consistency and sustainability of the economic policies currently followed by the main countries and group of countries, and analyse how financial spillovers affect global economic interdependence. Finally, the chapters discuss how countries can better manage capital flows in order to expand their policy space for pursuing their development strategies.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2014 and Overview	*Trade and Development Report, 2014: Global Governance and Policy Space for Development*

Item 5
Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Third progress report

13. As at previous sessions, the Board at its sixty-first session will deliberate on progress in implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020 (Istanbul Programme of Action) in the areas of the mandates and competence of UNCTAD. The Board's consideration of item 5 on the provisional agenda will be based on the third progress report prepared by the secretariat, in accordance with paragraphs 153 and 156 of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The report provides comprehensive information on the UNCTAD contribution to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2013, together with preliminary lessons and policy recommendations for the further implementation of the relevant actions and commitments contained therein.

Documentation

TD/B/60/8	Contribution of UNCTAD to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020: Third progress report

Item 6
Economic development in Africa: Catalysing investment for transformative growth in Africa

14. This agenda item will consider the *Economic Development in Africa Report 2014: Catalysing Investment for Transformative Growth in Africa*, which shows that Africa's recent growth has not been associated with any significant change in investment rates and, in this context, examines how African Governments can catalyse investment for sustained and transformative growth. The report underscores the need to enhance the contribution of investment to growth through boosting investment rates, improving the productivity of existing and new investments and ensuring that investment goes to strategic and priority sectors deemed crucial for economic transformation. It also stresses the importance of strengthening linkages between local and foreign enterprises, stemming capital flight to release more resources for investment, using aid to stimulate investment and fostering

international trade to boost investment. In each of these areas, the report emphasizes the need for policy coherence at the national and international levels.

Documentation

TD/B/61/4	Economic development in Africa: Catalysing investment for transformative growth in Africa (overview)
UNCTAD/ALDC/AFRICA/2014	*Economic Development in Africa Report 2014: Catalysing Investment for Transformative Growth in Africa*

Item 7
Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

15. Paragraph 18 (d) of the Doha Mandate of the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII) states that UNCTAD should "continue to monitor and assess the evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective". In response to this mandate, under this agenda item the Trade and Development Board will deliberate on agricultural trade, poverty reduction and sustainable development in view of the formulation of a United Nations post-2015 development agenda. It will examine trends in international trade in agriculture, market access issues pertaining to tariffs and non-tariff measures in the agricultural sector, agricultural subsidies in the form of producer support and the interface between agriculture, trade and poverty reduction. The treatment of trade in agriculture in multilateral and regional agreements will be discussed, with a view to discussing policy issues that can contribute to creating a coherent international framework for enhancing economically viable agricultural trade for achieving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Documentation

TD/B/61/2	Evolution of the international trading system and its trends from a development perspective

Item 8
Development strategies in a globalized world: Policymaking in an evolving framework of global governance

16. Deliberations by the Trade and Development Board under this agenda item will address national policy space under the evolving rules of global governance, a topic that has been central to UNCTAD work since 1964. The topic has become particularly important since the eruption of the global crisis, which showed the need to put in place new growth patterns, a task that cannot be left to unregulated market forces. Delegates will have the opportunity to discuss to what extent Governments (particularly those of developing countries) have adequate room to manoeuvre in implementing the trade, industrial and fiscal policies needed for structural transformation and adequate means to use and enlarge existing policy space in these areas.

17. The background documentation for the deliberations of the Board under this item is contained in chapters III, IV and VI of the *Trade and Development Report, 2014*, which address the evolution and current conditions of the policy space needed for implementing growth-enhancing and inclusive development strategies. Policy space depends not only on the existing rules and commitments in the World Trade Organization and in bilateral or other plurilateral agreements, but also on the possibility of mobilizing resources for

financing industrial policies, investment and growth. From a developmental State point of view, fiscal space is a key aspect of policy space. In this context, developing countries need to look at ways to address the loss of revenues stemming from illicit financial flows, tax havens and inadequate taxation of the extractive industries.

Documentation

UNCTAD/TDR/2014 and Overview — *Trade and Development Report, 2014: Global Governance and Policy Space for Development*

Item 9
Investment for development: Investing in the sustainable development goals

18. The sustainable development goals currently being formulated by the United Nations and a wide range of stakeholders will require a step change in both private and public investment. Public sector contributions will remain indispensable, but the scale of investment needed to meet demands across all sectors related to the sustainable development goals means that mobilizing private sector contributions will be critical to the realization of those goals. Nevertheless, increasing private sector contributions poses challenges and policy dilemmas which must be addressed.

19. The session will present the analysis, findings and proposals in the *World Investment Report 2014: Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals – An Action Plan*, which focused on promoting private sector contributions and examined the topic in depth. This will be followed by a range of perspectives from eminent panellists and a subsequent interactive dialogue among participants and panellists. The discussion will assess the investment gap that needs to be filled to achieve the sustainable development goals; the primary sources from which these funds can be obtained and how best to mobilize them; how to channel the funds effectively into sustainable development goal sectors; and how to maximize the positive impact of such investment while minimizing risks and drawbacks. The discussion will reflect on the proposed UNCTAD action plan for investment in the sustainable development goals.

20. The session will also provide an opportunity for a briefing by the secretariat on the latest developments regarding trends in and policies on foreign direct investment.

Documentation

UNCTAD/WIR/2014 and Overview — *World Investment Report 2014: Investing in the Sustainable Development Goals – An Action Plan*

Item 10
UNCTAD contributions to the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields

21. In its resolution 57/270 B, the General Assembly stressed the need to make maximum use of existing United Nations mechanisms for the purpose of reviewing the implementation of commitments made within the United Nations system in key areas of development. In this regard, it invited the Trade and Development Board to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, under its relevant agenda items.

22. Paragraph 11 of the Accra Accord states that:

> UNCTAD, within its mandate, should make a contribution to the implementation and follow-up to the outcomes of relevant global conferences. It should continue to contribute to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. With all aspects of its work it will help to implement the global development agenda and pave the way to 2015. It should also contribute to the implementation of specific actions requested in the 2005 World Summit, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the World Summit on the Information Society. It should also contribute to furthering the implementation of the internationally agreed goals in the Doha Ministerial Declaration and other relevant decisions.

23. Similarly, paragraphs 18 and 18 (n) of the Doha Mandate state that "UNCTAD should continue to work within its mandate – through its three pillars, delivering meaningful results, utilizing available resources, while enhancing synergies and promoting complementarities with the work of other organizations. In this regard, UNCTAD should… implement and follow up, as appropriate, relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits on development".

24. The Board is expected to respond to the request addressed to it by the General Assembly in paragraph 27 (a) of resolution 57/270 B on the basis of a note prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat.

Documentation

TD/B/61/5	Progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and UNCTAD contributions

Item 11
Technical cooperation activities:

(a) Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD

25. The Board will review the technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2013, as well as developments in UNCTAD's technical cooperation – in particular, matters of capacity-building related to trade and investment, and issues related to progress in the implementation of decision 478 (L) of the Board regarding technical cooperation. In considering this item, the Board will have as supporting background documentation the outcome of the sixty-eighth session of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, due to be held from 3 to 5 September 2014, and a review of technical cooperation activities undertaken in 2013.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/262	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing
TD/B/WP/262/Add.1	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex I: Review of activities undertaken in 2013 (English only)
TD/B/WP/262/Add.2	Review of the technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD and their financing – Annex II: Statistical tables (English only)

Documentation

TD/B/WP/265	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme budget on its sixty-eighth session

(b) Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people

26. As in previous years, the UNCTAD report on assistance to the Palestinian people will provide the Trade and Development Board with a summary of recent economic developments in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The message is that the socioeconomic conditions worsened in 2013 and are expected to deteriorate further due to the persistence of the restrictions imposed on Palestinian economic activity by the Israeli occupation. In the context of the ongoing destruction of the Palestinian productive base and other Israeli measures, the report will highlight the consequences of the Israeli restrictions on Palestinian economic activity in Area C (two thirds of the total area of the West Bank). The report will also highlight ongoing and forthcoming UNCTAD technical cooperation activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the challenges faced in the implementation of such activities.

Documentation

TD/B/61/3	Report on UNCTAD assistance to the Palestinian people: Developments in the economy of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Item 12
Matters requiring action by the Board in the follow-up to the thirteenth session of the Conference:

(a) Follow-up to the Joint Inspection Unit report and the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board on 6 July 2012

27. The Conference at its thirteenth session in Doha (UNCTAD XIII) decided that the annual sessions of the Trade and Development Board would consider and evaluate progress on the implementation of decisions in relation to the Joint Inspection Unit report and take action, as appropriate. The Trade and Development Board at its fifty-ninth session considered a workplan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD, which was developed in accordance with the agreed conclusions of the twenty-sixth special session of the Trade and Development Board held on 6 July 2012. At the fifty-ninth session, the Board requested the secretariat to enhance the management and administration of UNCTAD through the implementation of the workplan presented at the session, as contained in document TD/B/59/CRP.2, and based on the deliberations of the Board. The Board also requested a comprehensive progress report on implementation at its sixtieth session in September 2013. At the sixtieth session, the Board considered the progress report on the implementation of the workplan, as contained in document TD/B/60/5 and requested the secretariat to continue implementation of the workplan and present the next progress report on implementation at its sixty-first session in September 2014. The secretariat will report on the implementation of the workplan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD.

Documentation

TD/B/61/9	Building a stronger UNCTAD
TD/B/60/5	Progress report on the implementation of the workplan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD
JIU/REP/2012/1	Review of management and administration in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Documentation

TD/B(S-XXVI)/CRP.1	UNCTAD Management Response to the Joint Inspection Unit Review of Management and Administration in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
TD/B(S-XXVI)/2	Report of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-sixth special session
TD/B/59/CRP.2	Workplan for enhancing the management and administration of UNCTAD
TD/B/59/7	Report of the Trade and Development Board on its fifty-ninth session (decision 516 (LIX))

(b) Report of the UNCTAD Public Symposium

28. The report of the fifth UNCTAD Public Symposium, which took place from 18 to 19 June 2014, will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/61/6	Report on the fifth UNCTAD Public Symposium – A better world economic order for equality and sustainable development post-2015

Item 13
Other matters in the field of trade and development:

(a) Progressive development of the law of international trade: Forty-sixth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

29. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2205 (XXI), the report of the forty-seventh session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law will be before the Board.

Documentation

A/69/17	Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on its forty-seventh session

(b) Report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre

30. At its forty-eighth session held from 11 to 12 June 2014, the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre reviewed the Centre's technical cooperation activities.

Item 14
Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget

31. The report of the Working Party on its sixty-eighth session will be before the Board for its consideration.

Documentation

TD/B/WP/265	Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its sixty-eighth session

Item 15
Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Report by the Chair of the Advisory Body set up in accordance with paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action on the implementation of courses by the secretariat in 2013–2014 and their relevant impact; and the appointment of members of the Advisory Body for 2015

32. In accordance with Board decision 466 (XLVII), the Chairman of the Advisory Body will inform the Board about the activities of the Advisory Body and about the implementation of paragraph 166 of the Bangkok Plan of Action. The Board will be invited to appoint members of the Advisory Body for 2015, on the basis of the recommendations of the regional groups.

(b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

33. The UNCTAD secretariat has received one application requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board. A list of the approved intergovernmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/IGO/LIST/10.

Documentation

TD/B/61/R.3	Application from the Indian Ocean Rim Association

(c) Designation of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board

34. The UNCTAD secretariat has received two applications requesting inclusion in the list provided for in rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/61/R.1	Application from the International Federation of Multimedia Associations
TD/B/61/R.2	Application from the Réseau Intercontinental de Promotion de l'Économie Sociale Solidaire

35. A list of the approved non-governmental organizations is contained in document TD/B/NGO/LIST/16.

(d) Review of the calendar of meetings

36. The Board will have before it the calendar of meetings for the remainder of 2014 and for 2015.

In-session documentation

(e) Membership of the Working Party for 2015

37. The Board will be required to approve the membership of the Working Party for 2015 on the basis of nominations from the regional groups.

In-session documentation

(f) Review of the lists of States contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX)

38. The Board will have before it, as appropriate, the updated membership list of UNCTAD and the Board.

Documentation

TD/B/INF.228	Membership of UNCTAD and membership of the Trade and Development Board

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

39. The Board will be informed during the session of the administrative and financial implications of any proposals before it.

In-session documentation, if required

Item 16
Adoption of the report on credentials

40. In accordance with rule 17.2 of the rules of procedure, the Bureau of the Board will examine the credentials and submit its report to the Board.

In-session documentation

Item 17
Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Board

41. The draft provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Board will be prepared by the secretariat. The Board may wish to refer consideration of this item to the consultations of the President of the Board with the Bureau and coordinators.

Item 18
Other business

Item 19
Adoption of the report

42. In accordance with paragraph 195 of the Accra Accord, the report of the Board to the General Assembly will contain negotiated outcomes on Africa, least developed countries and technical cooperation, as well as Chairs' summaries and negotiated outcomes addressed to the secretariat.